80

N06

A dissertation

on Amenorrhoea

by

the Author

Lewis McJiggitts of Virg

passed Mar. 26. 1818

Polygala Senega

292 Cleavers

A

~~Phot~~

By the ter
mines, as we
import. This
-ic momentum
term is unde
period of
By the lat
ched fluid
The minute
induce us
be no conclu
fact: but
time, and
a sense of
-ta natural
circumstances,
corresponding
to be a
preventing
-ing those w
owing to
but that it
not allowin
is requisite

Amenorrhoea

By the term amenorrhoea is meant the absence of the menses, as will, readily, be perceived from its etymological import. This disease has been divided into retention or emanesis menseium of Latin writers, and suppression. By the first term is understood, that the menses have not appeared at that period of life, at which it is natural, they should. By the last or second term, suppression, is meant, the secreted fluid has been discharged, but is now interrupted. The menses not appearing, at the usual period, should not induce us to conclude there is disease; particularly, if there be no constitutional symptoms indicative of disorder in some part: but when menstruation does not occur at the common time, and there are attending ~~it~~ symptoms of general debility, a sense of lassitude, and dyspeptic symptoms, with preternatural appetites for chalk, lime and other indigestible substances, it behooves us to look for the causes and corresponding remedies. These causes have been supposed to be a want of vigour or debility in the system preventing a new action from taking place, and impairing those which exist. I believe the obstruction is not owing to the immediate effect of debility of the uterine vessels; but that it arises from the general debility of the system not allowing that action of the ovaries, to take place which is requisite to produce that monthly, healthy, secretory

action of the
takes place
fully develop
in different c
in menstruat
have, of w
dissection, to
by Charles C
1805. This w
had never m
two years.
which came
woman, of w
the right of
ries, which
that the ut
decay alw
of the ovar
of the uter
of the mus
function i
for this
=clear struc
the fluid
from blood

action of the uterus, denominated menstruation, which always takes place at that period of life, when the ovaries are completely developed and perfected; which occur at different periods in different climates. That the ovaria do exert their influence in menstruation, I infer from the several reports, which we have, of women never menstruating, and being found, on dissection, to be void of these organs. One case published by Charles Pears, in the Philosophical Transactions for 1805. This woman died, at the age of twenty nine. She had never menstruated. She ceased to grow at the age of ten years. Doct. Chapman related a similar case which came under his observation, while in Europe. The woman, of whom he spoke, had a peculiar aversion to the sight of man. From these two facts, and many others, which might be adduced, I am led to conclude, that the retention of the menses is, generally, a symptomatic disease, always. For the most part, depending on the state of the ovaries. Deficiency, or an imperfect developement, of the uterus, must, also, be acknowledged, to be a cause of the menses not flowing; as it is the organ, whose function is the secretion of the menstrual flux. That this is a secretion must be admitted, from the glandular structure of the uterus, and from the appearances of the fluid, differing in colour, odour, and coagulability from blood: it is deprived of the fibrin of the blood

and sums, t
from the p
the commission
in the prey
writer Vanhe
quod est, t
Although
female syst
to believe, i
opinion o
pregnancy,
and in fa
conception.
to descent p
sola ovaria
alone, that
I am drawn
was wanting
appearance
Dont Sum
in this Coity
the Faculty
they on ex
account,
quoted by

and seems, therefore, to be a fluid sui generis.* We observe from the preceding facts, that the uterus is, completely, under the dominion of the ovaria, which are the prime movers in the process of menstruation. It was said by an ancient writer, Vanhelmont: Propter solum uterum mulier est, id quod est; the uterus alone makes woman what she is. Although this viscus appears, in some cases, to act, on the female system, very powerfully; nevertheless, I am inclined to believe, it is not the action of the uterus, but the operation of the ovaria; for we see in extra uterine pregnancy, the decidua formed, the breasts enlarged and, in fact, all the symptoms, which indicate a natural conception. From this, and subsequent facts, I am induced to dissent from Vanhelmont's motto, and to say: Propter sola ovaria mulier est, id quod est; it is owing to the ovaries alone, that woman is, that, which she is. To this inference I am drawn, from having read of instances, where the uterus was wanting, without producing any change in the general appearance of the woman, more than the want of the menses. Doct.r James, in his valuable lectures, related a case of a lady, in this City, who was married; she, not being endowed with the faculty of propagation, consulted him, and Dr. Physick. They, on examination, found the uterus wanting. From this account, and from one similar, in Richerand's Physiology, quoted by him from the memoirs of the Medical Society of

* See Doct.r Chapman's Richerand.

Paris, and fr
perceive, at
is characteri
obvious, I w
grew up wi
the age of
and it w
in other respe
another line
=na and lern
inch in dept
=per manner,
we love,
and very pu
Retention of
fastidiousness l
filtions at
Flatulency a
=ency, a pric
other absorb
usually attr
As the disco
pat, and,
=gin upon
decency; th

Paris, and promulgated, originally, by Professor Cailliot, we perceive, at once, that these women had every thing, which is characteristick of their sex. That this may appear more obvious, I will adduce the case. "A female was born, and grew up with all the external characteristics of her sex. At the age of puberty, she wished to yield to her desires, but found it impracticable; there was nothing beyond the vulva in other respects, well formed. A small canal, between two and three lines in diameter, occupied the place of the vagina, and terminated in a cul de sac, and was about an inch in depth. The most accurate examinations, in the proper manner, could discover no uterus". In these two cases, we see love, in its most prominent feature, which has, and very justly, been said to be the whole history of woman. Retention of the menses is, generally, attended with heaviness, listlessness to motion, fatigue on the least exercise, palpitations at the heart, pains in the back, loins, and hips, flatulency and acidities in the stomach and bowels, costiveness, a preternatural appetite for chalk, lime, and various other absorbents, together with many dyspeptic symptoms, usually attending chlorosis.

As the disease advances in its progress, the face becomes pale, and, afterwards, assumes a yellowish hue, even verging upon green, from which it has been called green sickness; the lips lose their colour; the eyes are encircled

with a livid
ative appearan
and energy
exertions se
any vigorous
small; and
and many
a great gle
-ning and m
the one of th
rather diffe
dibility, adin
should indicat
first done,
by inter ex
pole a great
and the min
of gentlem
-nerical, a
only engag
-ers and
by the ass
and conse
-quence, ab
-mount on

[illegible] a [illegible] exercise the whole body has a [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible] of a [illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible] the constitution [illegible] an [illegible]
[illegible] the breathing is much hurried by
any vigorous exertion of the body the pulse is quick but
small: [illegible] is apt to be affected with cough
[illegible] of the symptoms of [illegible] [illegible]
a good deal of [illegible] is [illegible] in the morn-
ing [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
be one of the diseases, [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible]
the [illegible]: but [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] we
should endeavour to restore the tone of the system this seems
best done, by invigorating diet, the moderate use of wine,
by gentle exercises on horseback in the country. By associating
with agreeable company, so as to keep the attention engaged
and the mind tranquil, and amused: of all company that
of gentlemen is in my opinion by far the most be-
neficial and should always be recommended as it not
only engages the attention of the patient, and tranquil-
izes and amuses her mind; but at the same time
by the association of ideas, determines nervous influence
and consequently an afflux of blood to the genital
organs, and, by that means, calls into action those
moment vessels, and causes them to extend their influence

by sympathy, to the uterus. A regular course of different forms will be found highly useful such as the Peruvian bark, the infusion of gentian or quassia & gelsi with chalybeates of which the Carbonate of iron is generally preferred. Previous to a use of these medicines it appears correct to administer an emetic, for the purpose of cleansing the stomach, and preparing it for the operation of those medicines. The hot salt water bath has been thought very beneficial succeeded by friction with dry flannels or a coffee brush. The cold bath has been supposed to be injurious, as it sometimes produces chills, & the recurrence of this, it has been superseded by the warm bath which is useful. I have no reason to doubt, but at the same time I am disposed to believe that the cold ought not to be entirely laid aside, in all states of this disease particularly where the system has the power of reaction, and can produce a glow in this state of the system I should imagine the cold bath would be found one among our best remedies. Those things, which act more immediately on the urinary system, are the exercise of walking, jumping and dancing, this being best, as it is at the same accompanied with other amusements. Frequent friction, deliluvium, and semicupium have often good effect, comprizing the dense celery seed, also have recommended

The electric shock, passed through the pelvis, has been used for the purpose of rousing the indolent uterus which I imagine to be owing to the want of excitement. In all cases matrimony should be advised as it is productive of the most natural remedy.
Stimulating the rectum by purgatives has been advised; the most frequently employed are aloes, gamboge, and [illegible] the first of these is best as it acts on the rectum principally and brings the rectum by sympathy on the uterus. [illegible] recommended by [illegible] purgatives in this disease [illegible] of the [illegible] the state of the [illegible] constitution. Some practitioners [illegible] in the habit of [illegible] these [illegible] purgatives [illegible] but it [illegible] in small doses, just sufficient to keep up the [illegible] evacuations regularly. Other stimulants, under the name of emmenagogues, such as savin, hellebore &c. have been employed in the cure of retention; but [illegible] [illegible] If all [illegible] these [illegible] [illegible] that the [illegible] is in some way disordered, or [illegible].
Suppression of the menses is not always to be considered a disease; as in the commencement of the menstrual

section. If
as, naturally,
ge ed, by
es produced
are effecte
ted by
by such ca
tal chine
galvanism
impression
the muscles
causes; as
n substitu
ence of n
the
death from
sensa
are very m
ing, a
of the pal
will
to any ob
chos
in the
case dise

secretion. The periods are not uniformly regular. It is also, naturally, produced by pregnancy, which is readily recognised by its effects. This obstruction of the catamenia is produced, in some, and most of the cases, that are efficient in retention. It may, and frequently, is produced by whatever debilitates the system in general, and by such causes, likewise, as operate more directly on the uterine system, as for instance, if a pregnant woman labouring, particularly, recently in utero, may bring on suppression of the menstrual discharge. Suppression of the menses is also suddenly, occasioned by certain other causes; as cold, and passions of the mind during menstruation. They disease, when they induced, is productive of bad effects; and owing to these effects injuring the health, or to the uterus not speedily recovering itself from this affection, the suppression may continue a considerable time. The immediate, and remote effects are very much modified by the state of the different organs, as regards their liability to disease.
If the patient be predisposed to Pulmonary Pulmonalis she will be very apt to be affected with it, or to any other, the result will be the same. Bichat has observed, that both young girls, and elderly women when the menses are irregular or obstructed, the personally and subsequently against, when the catamenia are regular

St. also. I guess, in consequence of suppression of the menses. that hemorrhages takes place from the nose lungs. stomach. eyes, hemorrhoidal vessels, &c. &c. &c. and from warts; these discharges occasionally appear at monthly periods; but more frequently they recur irregularly. When suppression continues, a long time we may conclude, that the ovaries or uterus is in some way disordered accordingly, we find on dissection some one of these organs scirrhous.

Polygala lineata

denominated emmenagogues, have so often been at one time celebrated, and at another reprobated, is the want of that attention to the state of system in which they were found beneficial.
In this state of the system there cannot be held out a more obvious signal for the aid of blood-letting, and the other antiphlogistic remedies, than is here exhibited by the powers of nature.
After blood-letting has been premised, the saline purgatives should be employed, which may be succeeded by the mild diaphoretics, such as the saline mixture or antimonial powders.